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A BRIEF HISTORY OF V CORPS, 1918-2004

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V Corps was established in battle during World War I at Remiremont, France in July 1918. By the end of the war, the Corps had participated in three campaigns and carried the main attack in the decisive Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Dubbed the "Victory Corps" in recognition of its rapid advance in the final phase of the war, V Corps returned to the United States in 1919.

V Corps was reactivated at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, in October, 1940, and took part in the famous Louisiana Maneuvers of 1941. The organization deployed to Ireland after the United States declared war on Germany, providing the first American soldiers and the first army headquarters deployed to the European theater in World War II.

On June 6, 1944, V Corps assaulted Omaha Beach, Normandy. Corps soldiers then helped break out from the beachhead, liberated Paris and Sedan, and raced to the German border by September 1944. After liberating Luxembourg City, the Corps successively fought in the Battle of the Bulge, captured Leipzig, made first contact with the Soviets at Torgau, and liberated Pilzen by May 1945.



Maj. Gen. William M. Wright organized V Corps and commanded it in July and August 1918.



Soldiers of the 16th Infantry Regiment of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division were in the first waves to assault Omaha Beach in the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy.

In 1951, the Corps returned to Germany, where its forces planned and trained to defend the critical Fulda Gap during the Cold War. The end of the Cold War signaled the start of a new focus for Victory Corps operations. V Corps deployed both units and individuals to Saudi Arabia for Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in 1990 and 1991; to Kuwait for Operation POSITIVE FORCE in 1991; to northern Iraq for Operation PROVIDE COMFORT; to Croatia for Operation PROVIDE PROMISE; to Somalia for Operation RESTORE HOPE; to Macedonia for Operation ABLE SENTRY; to Rwanda and Zaire for Operation SUPPORT HOPE; to Albania for Operation VICTORY HAWK; and to many other



A Soldier guides V Corps vehicles across the Sava Bridge linking Zupania, Croatia with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jan. 1, 1996. The 2,033-foot span was longer than New York's Brooklyn Bridge.

contingencies and exercises.

In December 1994, as part of the ongoing drawdown and realignment of U.S. forces in Europe, the Corps moved its headquarters from the historic C. W. Abrams Building (the former I.G. Farben Building) to Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, severing a 43-year tie with Frankfurt am Main.

Recognizing the changing circumstances in Europe, V Corps reached out to the armed forces of eastern Europe with assistance and international exercises such as PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE that fostered closer ties and better

understanding. Meanwhile, the Corps remained committed to NATO, and in 1994 entered into an arrangement with the Federal Republic of Germany to create two bi-national corps. For NATO Central Region contingency, V Corps commanded first the 5th Panzer Division and later the 13th Panzergrenadier Division, while the German II Korps commanded the U.S. 1st Armored Division.

In December 1995, V Corps deployed its 1st Armored Division and major elements of six separate brigades in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR for the NATO Implementation Force in support of the Dayton Peace Agreement for Bosnia. Furthermore, the Corps headquarters, the 3rd Corps Support Command, and the separate brigades helped form the U.S. Army Europe (Forward) and 21st Theater Army Area Command (Forward) headquarters in Hungary, which provided the National Support Element for U.S. forces in Bosnia. Moreover, V Corps Artillery provided the command and control element for Task Force Victory, which commanded rear detachments, non-deploying units, and supported forward operations. Subsequently, the Corps deployed elements of the 1st Infantry Division and Corps separate brigades to serve in the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, V Corps, was decorated with the Army Superior Unit Award in 1998 in recognition of the unit's performance in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

In April 1999, V Corps once again deployed elements of the Corps headquarters and its major subordinate commands to Albania, where it organized Task Force Hawk as part of Operation VICTORY HAWK, a NATO force involved in the on-going crisis in Kosovo. Meanwhile, the Corps deployed the first of many rotations of troops to Kosovo as part of the NATO Kosovo Force to implement the peace in that province.

At the end of 2002, V Corps deployed to Kuwait to serve under U.S. Central Command during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, the U.S.-led coalition for the war to bring about a regime change in Iraq and satisfy international concerns about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction programs. V Corps and its separate brigades arrived in Kuwait and went through a final series of exercises before crossing into Iraq on March 21, 2003 as the CENTCOM main attack. V Corps commanded the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during the

opening phases of the war and later took command of the 82nd Airborne Division (-), the 2nd Cavalry Regiment (Light), the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, among other units. In 16 days of fighting, V Corps advanced more than 540 miles straight line distance from Kuwait to Baghdad, decisively defeating the Iraqi armed forces, and toppling the regime of Saddam Hussein.

On June 14, 2003, V Corps relieved Coalition Forces Land Component Command as the core of the newly formed Combined Joint Task Force 7, based in Baghdad, and pursued further military operations to eliminate remaining enemy forces and to set the conditions for reconstruction of the country, along with the creation of democratic institutions. The V Corps commanding general not only commanded the Corps, but was also commanding general of CJTF-7. In addition to the 1st Armored Division and 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), CJTF-7 assumed command of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and two multi-national divisions. V Corps leaders and soldiers continued to find, kill, or capture noncompliant individuals and forces. During the V Corps participation as CJTF-7, electricity was restored, democratic institutions began to emerge, the Iraqi people began to get their first taste of freedom in more than 30 years, and major figures in the former regime were killed (such as Saddam Hussein's sons Uday and Qusay) or captured, including the most notable captive, Saddam Hussein himself.

At the end of January 2004, V Corps was reassigned to its previous home station in Heidelberg, Germany, and was succeeded in CJTF-7 by III Corps. Upon its return to Germany, V Corps entered a period of reconstitution and reorganization and prepared for its next mission. In recognition of its combat achievements in Iraq, the Department of the Army in 2004 awarded the V Corps Headquarters and Headquarters Company the Meritorious Unit Citation.



Combat engineers from the 16th Engineer Battalion of V Corps' 1st Armored Division patrol a street in Karbala, Iraq in search of improvised explosive devices in May 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

